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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 16 December 1992, the General Assembly, by its resolution 47/92, decided to convene a World Summit for Social Development at the level of Heads of State or Government, and accepted with deep appreciation the generous offer of the Government of Denmark to host the Summit. The report of the Summit, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, is now before the General Assembly. 1/

2. The World Summit for Social Development adopted a Declaration, entitled the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, and a Programme of Action 2/ and recommended their endorsement by the General Assembly at its fiftieth session. The Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development includes a statement on the current social situation and the reasons for convening the Summit, a set of principles and goals, and 10 Commitments. The Programme of Action outlines policies, actions and measures to implement the principles and fulfil the commitments enunciated in the Copenhagen Declaration.

3. The follow-up and implementation of the decisions and recommendations adopted by the Social Summit are particularly challenging owing to the complex and interconnected nature of the issues and the commitments made. The reduction and elimination of poverty, the promotion of productive employment, the creation of socially integrated societies and the creation of a political and economic environment supportive of those goals entail a vast array of policies and actions and a large number of actors. Goals must be pursued in a comprehensive way, integrating environmental, human rights, gender and other dimensions highlighted at previous global conferences. The main responsibility for the implementation of the policies, actions and measures contained in the Declaration and Programme of Action rests with national Governments. At the same time, it is one of the key axioms of the Summit that all private and public institutions and organizations, as well as all citizens, should share that responsibility, and it is clearly stated in the Declaration and Programme of Action that international cooperation and assistance are essential for its full implementation. Commitment 10 of the Declaration calls for improved and strengthened cooperation for social development, in a spirit of partnership, through the United Nations and other multilateral institutions. In chapter V of the Programme of Action, the Secretary-General of the United Nations is requested to ensure active coordination of the implementation of the Declaration and the Programme of Action (para. 98 (d)). The present report focuses mainly on the supportive role of intergovernmental bodies and the organizations of the United Nations system.

4. On 29 March 1995, the Secretary-General sent a letter to Heads of State or Government who had participated at the Social Summit and stressed the political significance of the event and of the commitments taken. He also indicated that he was initiating a process to ensure a coordinated response from the United Nations system, based on a clear division of labour. In a second letter to Heads of State or Government dated 28 July 1995, the Secretary-General suggested the designation of a national focal point on the implementation of the Summit. The Secretary-General asked for the personal views of Heads of State or Government on ways to maintain the momentum towards the objectives agreed upon in Copenhagen. In related exchanges with Governments, the Secretary-General

emphasized that the situation of least developed countries would be fully taken into account in the follow-up to the Summit. In their responses to the Secretary-General's letter, Governments emphasized their determination to foster social development and to implement the objectives and commitments adopted in Copenhagen. Focal points are being designated in central ministries. Some national committees, established in the context of the preparation of the Summit, are being maintained, while in other cases new national committees are being put in place. Such initiatives should play a role in maintaining the momentum for the pursuit of social development that was created in Copenhagen.

5. In the Programme of Action, the Administrative Committee on Coordination, which is chaired by the Secretary-General, was invited to consider how the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system might best coordinate their activities to implement the objectives of the summit. On 21 June 1995, the Secretary-General sent a letter to heads of United Nations programmes and specialized agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions, stressing the need to approach the follow-up to United Nations conferences in an integrated manner. He then presented a report to the coordination segment of the Economic and Social Council in July outlining the elements of a system-wide integrated approach to the follow-up to United Nations conferences.

6. The intergovernmental discussions in the Economic and Social Council and the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on an Agenda for Development of the General Assembly confirmed Member States' expectations that the system would mobilize to provide effective, concerted support for the implementation of the commitments and programmes of action emanating from recent global United Nations conferences.

7. In his communications to executive heads, the Secretary-General has stressed that strong inter-agency cooperation will be required to promote effective follow-up action by Governments at all levels. It is, however, in relation to national action at the country level - in assisting individual countries to translate the outcomes of the conferences into concrete national policies and programmes, and in providing resident coordinators and country-level teams with coherent system-wide support - that existing inter-agency efforts need to be especially reinforced. Bearing in mind that follow-up mechanisms for the Rio Conference are already in place, the immediate priority should be to support effective country-level action that would ensure an integrated follow-up to the Cairo, Copenhagen and Beijing conferences around key, common objectives. The overriding goal, in this respect, should be to mount a concerted attack on poverty, building on the conceptual framework developed at the Social Summit - in particular the consensus reached in Copenhagen that poverty elimination requires basic social services, employment and sustainable livelihoods, the advancement of women and an enabling environment, at both the national and international levels.

8. To transform these concepts into practical modalities for action, proposals were submitted to the Administrative Committee on Coordination involving the expansion of the existing Task Force on the International Conference on Population and Development into a more broadly focused body concentrating on the provision of basic social services for all, and the establishment of task forces under a lead agency, which would address respectively the enabling environment

for social and economic development, and employment and sustainable livelihoods for all. Complementary arrangements would be established at the regional and country levels.

9. These proposals, which are designed to mobilize the United Nations system to provide effective, concerted support for specific, goal-oriented programmes aimed at the implementation of the commitments and plans of action emanating from recent United Nations conferences, in particular at the country level, and in support of national follow-up, were considered at the October session of the Administrative Committee.

II. AN IMPROVED AND STRENGTHENED FRAMEWORK FOR COOPERATION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

10. The Social Summit addressed issues of universal relevance. It recommended policies and actions involving all members of the international community. It gave a comprehensive meaning to social development. Its scope, which encompasses the three core issues of poverty, employment and social integration, as well as the areas covered by the 10 Commitments, cuts across the responsibilities of national ministries and the mandates of different organizations within the system.

11. The Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action emphasizes that Governments have the primary responsibility for social development. However, the notions of participation and responsibility are extended to the private sector, to the media, to non-governmental organizations and to all elements of civil society (Declaration, para. 27; Programme of Action, chap. V, para. 85 (g)).

12. International cooperation is given a major role in the Declaration and Programme of Action. Commitment 10, an improved and strengthened framework for international, regional and subregional cooperation for social development, in a spirit of partnership, through the United Nations and other multilateral institutions, is necessary to implement the outcome of the Social Summit. Chapter V of the Programme of Action makes clear that implementing the Declaration and the Programme in developing countries, in particular in Africa, and the least developed countries, will require additional financial resources and more effective development cooperation. The special needs of small island developing States and of landlocked developing countries are recognized. Chapter V also makes clear that continued international cooperation and assistance are required for countries with economies in transition. A proper articulation of various forms of cooperation, at the national, regional, subregional and international levels, is seen as crucial to the implementation of the outcome of the Social Summit. Cooperation ought to be based on the recognition of the diversity in the world and on the need for solidarity, within and among nations (chap. V, para. 82).

13. The Summit was also remarkable for emphasizing that principles and values such as responsibility and solidarity should provide the foundation for human endeavours and political action. It presented the eradication of poverty as an ethical, social, political and economic imperative (Declaration, Commitment 2)

and stressed that societies must respond more effectively to the material and spiritual needs of individuals, their families, and the communities in which they live (ibid., para. 3). An essential requirement for the implementation of the Summit, including through international cooperation, is solidarity, extending the concept of partnership and a moral imperative of mutual respect and concern among individuals, communities and nations (Programme of Action, chap. V, para. 82).

14. These dimensions of the Social Summit ought to give shape to the actions that will be taken by the international community to implement its recommendations and commitments. They have implications for follow-up at the national and international levels. The follow-up should be innovative and lead to practical results. It will require changes or reorientations in institutional arrangements and in the concepts and processes that underlie them. It should be integrated in the elaboration of an agenda for development and the coordinated follow-up to recent global conferences, while respecting the specificity of the philosophy and message of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. It should be holistic, in the sense of putting together the various facets of economic development and social progress, while respecting the diversity of social conditions and of traditions and culture. And it should be comprehensive, while ensuring the political visibility called for by the priority given to social development by the Summit. These are among the criteria against which the overall review and appraisal proposed by the Summit to the General Assembly for the year 2000 (Declaration, Commitment 10, para. (g)) should be conducted. At the international level, the calendar and agendas of meetings of intergovernmental bodies should be organized to maximize their contribution to the review.

15. In considering the issues before it on the implementation of the World Summit for Social Development, the General Assembly may wish to give special attention to the outcome of the 1995 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council. The Secretary-General's report to the Council 3/ and the subsequent agreed conclusions (see A/50/3, chap. III, para. 22) provide a framework for follow-up arrangements based on the mandate and functions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies. In choosing its themes for the coordination segment the Council may wish to choose a theme that would maximize its contribution to the Summit review.

16. The decisions on the follow-up should contribute to the broader discussions on the reform of the functioning of the United Nations in economic, social and related fields currently under way, as well as to the discussions on an agenda for development and on coordinated follow-up of other major United Nations conferences.

III. ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

A. Economic and Social Council

Recommendations made by the Social Summit

17. Commitment 10 of the Declaration calls for strengthening the structure, resources and processes of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, together with other organizations of the system concerned with economic and social development. The Economic and Social Council is specifically requested to review and assess progress made by the international community towards implementing the outcome of the World Summit (paras. (e) and (f)).

18. In chapter V of the Programme of Action, the Economic and Social Council is requested to oversee system-wide coordination of implementation of the Summit outcome (para. 95 (f)). Part of its strengthening mentioned in Commitment 10 would be to establish a closer working relationship with the specialized agencies and to draw upon the work done on a common framework for the implementation of the outcomes of conferences. The Council is also invited to review the reporting system in the area of social development and to consider holding joint meetings with the Development Committee of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) (para. 95 (g)). The Council is further invited, together with the General Assembly and other organs of the United Nations system, to contribute to the mobilization of financial resources and, in particular, to consider new and innovative ideas for generating funds (para. 93). Lastly, it is stipulated in the Programme of Action that, in addition to the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council could also convene meetings of high-level representatives to promote international dialogue on critical social issues and on policies for addressing them through international cooperation (para. 95 (d)).

Initiatives taken since Copenhagen

19. The Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1995 held a debate on the follow-up of the Summit under its agenda item on operational activities and under its agenda on social development. In its resolution 1995/60, the Council, apart from its decisions relating to the work of the Commission for Social Development, reaffirmed the recommendation of the Programme of Action that it should oversee system-wide coordination of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit and reiterated the need for all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to be involved in the follow-up to the Summit, in accordance with their mandates. The Council also reiterated that the implementation of the Declaration and the Programme of Action would require the mobilization of financial resources at the national and international levels.

20. The Council considered the theme of coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system and the implementation of the results of the major international conferences organized by the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, during the coordination segment of its substantive session of 1995. In its agreed conclusions, the Council, while emphasizing that each conference had its own thematic unity, decided to carry out, within the framework of its yearly

coordination segment, a review of cross-cutting themes common to major international conferences and to contribute to an overall review of the implementation of the programme of action of a United Nations conference. To that end, the Council would draw on a consolidated report of the Secretariat based on the input of functional commissions and other intergovernmental bodies and would also benefit from the active participation of funds, programmes, the regional commissions and relevant specialized agencies. The Council was to decide at its resumed substantive session of 1995 on a common theme(s) that it would consider in 1996 (see the agreed conclusions, sect. I.B). The Council was also to decide on the substantive theme to be taken up by the special session of the Commission for Social Development (see resolution 1995/60).

21. In its same conclusions on a coordinated follow-up to international conferences, the Council stated that it would ensure the harmonization and coordination of the agendas and work programmes of the functional commissions. To achieve this, the Council could, inter alia, organize meetings on specific issues with the chairpersons and secretariats of the functional commissions, as well as with other subsidiary and related bodies and their executive boards. The role of the regional commissions and a better interaction between the Council and the Committee for Programme and Coordination are also mentioned. Furthermore, all functional commissions are invited to develop multi-year programmes of work for the follow-up and review of programmes of action of conferences. As noted in paragraph 28 below, the Commission for Social Development is to consider such a multi-year programme of work at its special session of 1996. A better division of labour among the functional commissions would require, according to the Council, that each would focus on core issues of the conference for which it is responsible and on receiving inputs from other commissions on related issues (see the agreed conclusions, sect. I.B and C).

B. Subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council; the Commission for Social Development

22. It will be recalled that the Commission for Social Development participated in the elaboration of the agenda for the World Summit for Social Development. The report of its thirty-third session presented to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in 1993 4/ contributed to a clarification of the agenda of the Summit and the treatment of the three core issues. For example, the Commission outlined the elements of social development strategies that would further social integration, including equal access to opportunities and information, promotion of the role of grassroots and non-governmental organizations, and ensuring that public administration is transparent and accountable. These are elements of the "society for all" advocated in the Programme of Action. In addition, the Commission emphasized that a stable and non-discriminatory international environment was essential for social development.

Recommendations made by the Social Summit

23. Commitment 10 includes the decision to strengthen the structure, resources and processes of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies. It also includes a reference to the role of relevant functional commissions in the

review and assessment of the outcome of the Summit to be undertaken by the Council and submitted to the General Assembly (paras. (e) and (f)).

24. In chapter V of the Programme of Action, the Economic and Social Council was invited to review the mandate, agenda and composition of the Commission for Social Development, including consideration of the strengthening of the Commission, taking into account the need for synergy with other related commissions and conference follow-up (para. 95 (f)).

25. It should also be noted that in chapter V of the Programme of Action, the role of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in monitoring the relevant aspects of the Declaration and the Programme of Action is emphasized (para. 95 (i)). This Committee, which is made up of experts, receives and examines reports of States parties on their compliance with the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Thirty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development

26. At its thirty-fourth session, the Commission for Social Development adopted resolution 34/4 on the follow-up of the Summit, with three key points: it referred to its central role in the follow-up; it proposed an opening of its debate to experts and the main actors of civil society; and it indicated that the Council might consider an expansion of the membership of the Commission and the annualization of its meetings. 5/

27. The Commission also adopted a provisional agenda for its thirty-fifth session, 6/ scheduled to take place in 1997, with two substantive items: the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the monitoring of other international plans and programmes of action. Under the item on follow-up to the World Summit, the Commission identified four sub-items: (a) implications of decisions and resolutions adopted by the Council at its substantive session of 1995 and the General Assembly at its fiftieth session that relate to the Commission; (b) priority subjects encompassing the core issues, commitments and related issues of the Summit; (c) review of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the Summit, including reports of relevant bodies of the United Nations system; and (d) review of the world social situation.

Decisions of the Economic and Social Council on the Commission for Social Development and other functional bodies

28. The Economic and Social Council, in considering the report of the Commission, adopted the agenda the Commission proposed for its thirty-fifth session in 1997. With regard to the role of the Commission for the follow-up of the Summit, the Council in its resolution 1995/60 decided that the Commission should review, on a periodic basis, issues related to the follow-up and implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, and that such a role would involve an improvement of international understanding of social development making recommendations regarding social development to the Council and elaborating practical measures aimed at furthering the Summit's recommendations; that the Commission should adapt its mandate so as to ensure an integrated approach to social development, develop a multi-year programme of

work to the year 2000, establish the practice of opening its debates to experts and the main actors of civil society, review and update its methods of work and review the reporting practices to and by the Commission; and that the Commission should hold a special session in 1996 to review its mandate, elaborate its multi-year programme of work and review the frequency of its meetings.

29. The Council was to decide, at its resumed substantive session of 1995, on the substantive theme to be considered by the Commission.

30. Also in its resolution 1995/60, the Council stipulated that the review by the Commission should be done in a manner consistent with the functions and contributions of other relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system. In particular, the work of the Commission should be coordinated with the work of other functional commissions of the Council, notably the Statistical Commission and the Commission on Population and Development. Such harmonization will require close cooperation between the chairpersons and bureaux of the various intergovernmental bodies, as well as between secretariats.

31. The Commission's preparation of a multi-year programme of work to the year 2000 should be based on the relative advantages of the Commission for Social Development in the overall structure of intergovernmental bodies and their current mandates, one of which is its capacity to consider issues pertaining to social integration. This could mean that the Commission could adopt a social integration or "society for all" perspective on a variety of issues, including poverty and unemployment (Programme of Action, chap. IV, para. 66).

32. Governments that are members of the Commission have traditionally been invited to send representatives having expertise in the field of social development and integrated social policy and planning. Notably, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1139 IV (XLI), Member States elected to the Commission should nominate candidates who hold key positions in the planning or execution of national social development policies or other persons qualified to discuss the formulation of social policies in more than one sector of development. Member States are urged to adhere to those guidelines. In addition, and apart from the participation of all non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, a number of initiatives to promote greater participation of the private sector and of representatives of civil society in the sessions of the Commission are envisaged, starting with the special session in 1996, in line with the recommendation of the Council regarding the opening of the debates of the Commission to experts and representatives of civil society.

C. United Nations programmes

Recommendations made by the Social Summit

33. The implementation of the outcome of the Summit at the national level requires, inter alia, the assistance, upon request, of the programmes of the United Nations system. This is stated in Commitment 10 and recommendations are

made on technical cooperation, technical assistance and operational activities for development in chapter V of the Programme of Action.

34. The international support for the formulation of national strategies for social development would involve assisting countries in building or strengthening their capacity for the design and implementation of such strategies, the coordination of the assistance provided by different agencies and the development of improved statistics and indicators (Programme of Action, chap. V, para. 84).

35. With regard to the mobilization of financial resources, bilateral and multilateral donors are invited to coordinate their financing policies and planning procedures in order to improve the impact and cost-effectiveness of their contributions to social development in developing countries (ibid., para. 88 (o)). A similar call for coordination is made for the assistance to countries with economies in transition (ibid., para. 89). Programmes of the United Nations are also invited to assist Governments in ensuring that structural adjustment programmes contribute to employment, the reduction of poverty and social integration, including through reviews, policy dialogues and new initiatives (ibid., para. 96).

36. In the general context of a renewal, reform and revitalization of the United Nations system and of its operational activities in particular, the United Nations operational activities for development should be strengthened. To this end, the Summit called on the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to organize United Nations system efforts towards capacity-building at the local, national and regional levels, and to support the coordinated implementation of social development programmes through its network of field offices. At the country level, coordination to implement the outcome of the Social Summit should be improved through the resident coordinator system. Such development efforts by the United Nations require a substantial increase in resources for operational activities (ibid., para. 99).

Initiatives taken since Copenhagen

37. UNDP has established a Summit follow-up strategy group, which is working with UNDP country offices and country-level partners to assist them in elaborating specific strategies and programmes for implementing the Programme of Action. Commitments and recommendations of the Summit closely parallel its mission and strategy as outlined in its "Initiatives for Change". 7/ Elements of the UNDP follow-up strategy include support to countries in integrating Summit agreements into long-term development plans, in particular for the eradication of poverty; promoting dialogue among international development cooperation partners on Summit follow-up, in particular in relation to aid coordination and cooperation; and the possible establishment of a "capacity-development window" facilitating the mobilization of funds for national capacity-building. Two strategy papers have been circulated to resident coordinators: "From Poverty to Equity" 8/ and "Beyond Copenhagen". 9/ Feedback has already been received from 43 country offices on specifics of national follow-up. UNDP is also working closely with Governments and United Nations system partners on several post-Copenhagen initiatives, including a proposed international meeting on the 20:20 formula for funding social

programmes; the possible establishment of a consultative group on the poorest; poverty monitoring; and the Secretary-General's Special Initiative for Africa within the framework of the Administrative Committee on Coordination.

38. Immediately following the Summit, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) informed its field and headquarters staff of the highlights of the Summit, in particular as they relate to the decisions and recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development. The Fund will implement all relevant recommendations that are within its mandate and will serve as an advocate for recommendations on other population-related social goals, objectives and commitments adopted by the Summit. The Fund will keep its Executive Board informed of progress made in implementing the recommendations of the Summit. 10/

39. In 1994, the Executive Board of UNICEF decided to include an item on the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development on the agenda of its 1995 session. The documents submitted by the Executive Director for discussion at the session in May 1995 noted that the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action reaffirmed many of the objectives and goals adopted by the World Summit for Children. UNICEF is committed to playing an active and supportive role in the overall United Nations system follow-up process, with a particular focus on action at the field level. The follow-up to the World Summit offers opportunities to strengthen and accelerate the implementation process for the outcome of the World Summit for Children and other related conferences. 11/

40. Other programmes, notably the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), are undertaking activities that will contribute to the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action.

D. Regional commissions

Recommendations made by the Social Summit

41. The regional commissions are invited, through Commitment 10, to participate in a strengthened cooperation for social development at the national, regional and subregional levels. At the national level, the regional commissions could assist countries to take measures and develop mechanisms for implementing and monitoring the outcome of the Summit. They could convene, in cooperation with regional intergovernmental organizations and banks and on a biennial basis, a meeting at a high political level to evaluate progress made towards fulfilling the outcome of the Summit. The commissions should report to the Economic and Social Council on the outcome of such meetings and, in general, should assist the Council and the General Assembly in their review and assessment of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit (Programme of Action, chap. V, para. 95 (h)).

42. The emphasis of the Summit on increased cooperation at all levels implies that the regional commissions are expected to support the implementation of the

objectives of the Declaration and the Programme of Action, in particular to assist developing countries, Africa and the least developed countries, and the countries with economies in transition. Such support should apply to the mobilization of financial resources, the orientation towards social development of structural adjustment programmes, as well as South-South cooperation, the development of knowledge and indicators on the implementation of the Summit at the regional level and the mobilization of actors of the civil society at the regional level in the process of social development.

Initiatives taken since Copenhagen

43. The ministers in charge of social development policy from 11 States Members of the Rio Group (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela) met at Buenos Aires on 4 and 5 May 1995 and adopted a declaration on the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development as well as a set of actions to be taken at the regional level. Three main orientations have been chosen: formulation and management of social policies; creation of a regional database on social projects, programmes and initiatives; and technical cooperation among developing countries for social development activities in Latin America. A regional meeting of representatives from the Rio Group, the United Nations system and lending institutions is to take place in Quito in November 1995. In addition, a regional project on social indicators will be launched for the Latin American region with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and UNDP with the support of the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank.

44. At the Summit itself in Copenhagen, the Chancellor of Austria issued an invitation for a meeting at the European level, to be convened in Vienna in 1997, which would review the progress made towards fulfilling the outcome of the Summit. The Chancellor indicated that the regional meeting should include the development of an appropriate framework to deal with the specific problems of the countries of the region with economies in transition.

45. In relation with the implementation of Commitment 2, on the eradication of poverty and the observance of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty, all regional commissions are planning a large number of activities, including expert group meetings, studies and publications, the development of regional programmes of action and of indicators and statistical profiles of social groups in poverty.

E. Agencies of the United Nations system

Recommendations made by the Social Summit

46. In Commitment 10, Heads of State and Government decided that they would instruct their representatives to the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as international development agencies and multilateral development banks, to enlist the support and cooperation of those organizations to take appropriate and coordinated measures to implement the goals and commitments of the Summit. All the organizations of the system are strongly invited, in a spirit of partnership, to foster social development. The

specialized agencies are invited to contribute to the review and assessment of the outcome of the Summit to be undertaken by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. Also, along with other organizations of the system, the specialized agencies might be invited by Member States to assist them in taking measures and elaborating mechanisms for the follow-up of the Summit.

47. The specialized agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions are invited, together with the United Nations and its various programmes, to give particular attention to international cooperation and assistance to developing countries, Africa and the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition (Programme of Action, chap. V, paras. 96 and 97).

48. Together with the programmes of the United Nations, specialized agencies have a role to play in the support that the international community might provide to Governments for the formulation of national strategies for social development (ibid., para. 84).

49. The Programme of Action includes a large number of recommendations on the role that the specialized agencies, and in particular the Bretton Woods institutions, should play in the mobilization of financial resources for social development and the implementation of the commitments made in Copenhagen. With regard to debt reduction and on the basis of the decisions taken during the course of 1994 by seven major industrialized countries and the governors of the World Bank and IMF, the international financial institutions are invited to explore ways of adopting additional and innovative measures to alleviate the debt burden of developing and low-income countries; the resources of the Debt Reduction Facility of the International Development Association (IDA) ought to be mobilized and alternative mechanisms to complement that Facility ought to be considered (ibid., para. 90).

50. With regard to structural adjustment programmes, specialized agencies and international financial institutions also have a critical role to play in order to gear those programmes towards the objectives of social development (Declaration, Commitment 8). All institutions are invited to assist Governments in protecting basic social programmes and expenditures, reviewing the impact of structural adjustment programmes on societies and enabling small enterprises and cooperatives to increase their capacity for income generation and employment creation. The World Bank, IMF and all other regional and international finance organizations are requested to give higher priority to social sector lending. All institutions of the system are also invited to cooperate with the United Nations in assessing the impact of structural adjustment programmes (Programme of Action, chap. V, para. 91).

51. The Summit also concluded that consideration should be given to the holding of joint meetings of the Economic and Social Council and the Development Committee of the World Bank and IMF. In addition, the Secretary-General and the heads of IMF, the World Bank, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations funds and programmes and other relevant agencies are invited to consider the possibility of holding joint meetings prior to the Development Committee's session (ibid., para. 95 (g)).

52. Since one of the three core issues of the Summit was the expansion of productive employment, ILO has a special role to play in the implementation and follow-up of the Declaration and Programme of Action. In Commitment 3, the goal of full employment and the respect for workers' rights are to be supported at the international level through a variety of measures (paras. (j) and (k)). In chapter III of the Programme of Action, it is indicated that Governments should enhance the quality of work and employment by, inter alia, promoting the role of ILO, in particular as regards improving the level of employment and the quality of work (para. 54 (e)). In chapter V, in the context of ensuring coherence in the efforts of the United Nations system, the General Assembly is invited to give consideration to requesting ILO, whose mandate, tripartite structures and expertise give it a special role in the field of employment and social development, to contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Action (para. 98 (c)).

53. In the Programme of Action, the World Trade Organization is invited to consider how it might contribute to the implementation of the Programme, including in cooperation with the United Nations system (para. 98 (b)).

54. In Commitment 6, pertaining to the attainment of the goals of universal and equitable access to quality education and to the highest standard of physical and mental health, the specialized agencies, notably the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), are requested to take measures to promote the specific objectives of the Summit on education and health and to give greater emphasis to the eradication of poverty, promotion of full and productive employment and fostering of social integration.

Initiatives taken since Copenhagen

55. In April 1995, the Development Committee of the World Bank and IMF decided to consider at its meeting in October 1995 the implications of the World Summit for Social Development for developing countries and countries with economies in transition. IMF and the World Bank prepared a joint paper on activities of the two organizations in the area of poverty reduction, with particular emphasis on the role of public expenditure. The paper identifies aspects of the work of the two institutions to be strengthened and considers ways of enhancing cooperation between the Bretton Woods institutions and other multilateral and bilateral donors in support of the poverty-reduction strategies of developing and transition economies.

56. The ILO Governing Body, at its session in March/April 1995, requested the Director-General to ensure that ILO research, operational and standard-setting activities were geared closely to the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. At the request of the Governing Body, the Director-General of ILO informed the Secretary-General that ILO wished to be fully associated in the monitoring and reporting arrangements for the follow-up of the Summit. The Governing Body also requested the Director-General to submit to it at its session in November 1995 detailed proposals concerning actions to be taken by ILO in giving effect to the decisions or recommendations of Copenhagen, taking into account resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and other competent organizations of the United Nations system. In response to

Commitment 3 (i) of the Copenhagen Declaration, the ILO Governing Body decided to consider at its session in November 1995 the questions of promoting universal ratification of the ILO fundamental human rights conventions, combating child labour and improving the effectiveness of ILO supervision of labour standards. 11/

57. At the session of the International Labour Conference in June 1995, the Director-General submitted a report on promoting employment, focusing on the follow-up to the Summit. An informal tripartite meeting at the ministerial level considered another paper, on follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, on the role of ILO. The meeting concluded that ILO, with its tripartite structure, must play a leadership role in the activities of the international system, at the country and global levels, in the fields of employment and labour policies and the defence and promotion of workers' rights, while respecting the overall coordinating role of the Economic and Social Council. ILO also intends to assist Governments and social partners in formulating national strategies to attain the goal of fuller and high-quality employment, and will strengthen its capacity to monitor the employment situation and relevant global trends that affect employment, underemployment and unemployment. To that end, it will be publishing a regular review of the world employment situation. The Governing Body will be examining at its session in November 1995 a document containing more detailed proposals on the action to be taken by ILO in giving effect to the outcome of the Summit. 12/

58. In addition to the World Bank, IMF and ILO, specialized agencies, including UNESCO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and WHO, are developing activities in response to the requests made in Copenhagen; other agencies, notably the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), are also directly involved in the follow-up to the Summit, in particular with regard to the reduction and eradication of poverty.

59. Executive heads agreed that monitoring the follow-up by the United Nations system to recent global conferences would continue to be a major concern of the Administrative Committee on Coordination in the period ahead. In order to promote an integrated follow-up to the conferences, the Administrative Committee decided that, in future, it would undertake such reviews on the basis of a thematic approach, bringing together related results of recent global conferences, and drawing for that purpose on relevant inter-agency mechanisms. The selection of the themes for such reviews will take into account the need to monitor progress in the implementation of conference results and to provide the Economic and Social Council, in particular at its coordination segment, with consolidated information, analyses and assessment of system-wide activities in support of the Council's own thematic review.

60. The Administrative Committee on Coordination concurred with the proposal that coordinated support for country-level action should be organized, in the first instance, around three interrelated themes: (a) the enabling environment for social and economic development; (b) employment and sustainable livelihoods; and (c) basic social services for all. It considered that these themes were especially relevant to a concerted attack on poverty which constituted a major, overarching priority objective underlying all the conferences.

61. With regard to arrangements for pursuing these themes, the Administrative Committee agreed that the existing task force on the International Conference on Population and Development, under the chairmanship of the Executive Director of UNFPA, should be expanded to focus more broadly on social services for all, and that task forces should be set up to address respectively the enabling environment for social and economic development, and employment and sustainable livelihoods. The World Bank agreed to serve as lead agency for the task force on the enabling environment for social and economic development and ILO for the one on employment and sustainable livelihoods.

62. During the discussions, several suggestions were made with regard to the scope of work of each of the task forces. It was agreed that the lead agencies would consult members of the Administrative Committee on the definition of the work of and participation in the task forces and on the contribution different organizations could make to their work from their varying perspectives.

63. The Administrative Committee noted that the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women 13/ encompassed, but went well beyond, the above themes. The gender dimension should be taken fully into account in the work of each of the thematic task forces. Following the relevant decisions by the General Assembly, consideration will need to be given to the best means of promoting sustained and coordinated follow-up to the Platform for Action and of ensuring that the improvement of the status of women in all its aspects is placed in the mainstream of the work of the system.

64. With regard to regional-level arrangements, the Administrative Committee noted that the executive secretaries of the regional commissions, in consultation with the Administrator of UNDP, would work with the concerned agencies and programmes, drawing on the strengthened inter-agency consultative arrangements put in place further to the Secretary-General's letter of 4 March 1994 in order to develop concerted action programmes at the regional level in support of conference objectives.

65. At the country level, resident coordinators, in close cooperation with United Nations system partners, should take the lead in establishing thematic groups that would draw on but not necessarily be identical to, the inter-agency task forces referred to above, reflecting the particular situation, priorities and needs of the country in question. These groups should fully involve national and local authorities and non-governmental organizations, and work with all concerned agencies and programmes, including those not having field representatives.

66. In the context of the work of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, the Subcommittee on Statistical Activities has established an expert group to follow up the statistical implications of the Summit. This expert group has a work programme and has recommended that an expert group on the measurement of poverty be created. 14/ Also, the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions has a working group on poverty evaluation and reviewed the follow-up to the World Summit at its session in September 1995.

F. Secretariat

67. Within the Secretariat of the United Nations at Headquarters, the contribution to the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action will be provided mainly through the technical and substantive servicing of the relevant intergovernmental bodies - notably the Commission for Social Development, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly - by the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development. That Department, together with other departments within their mandates, will ensure the provision of relevant documentation to the intergovernmental bodies that will review and appraise the implementation of the outcome of the Social Summit.

68. The Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis intends in particular to establish, in relation with the work of the Administrative Committee on Coordination's Subcommittee on Statistical Activities, a United Nations common data system task force aimed at developing a coordinated and consistent methodological approach to data collection across the United Nations system in response to the requests made by different conferences, including the Social Summit, for better statistics and indicators. In the same Department, research and studies will be conducted on such issues as the dimensions and characteristics of poverty, forms and causes of social exclusion, policies to enhance social integration and policies to encourage the creation of employment opportunities. The results of those studies will be made available to Member States, notably through the Report on the World Social Situation and the World Economic and Social Survey. The Department for Development Support and Management Services, in addition to developing a system for the monitoring of the effects of adjustment, is carrying out a number of technical cooperation projects and workshops in the field of poverty and social integration that are relevant to the implementation of the Summit's recommendations. In addition, it is assisting countries in formulating social development or human development strategies in response to the specific recommendation made in this connection at the Summit. The work of the General Assembly on public administration and development at its resumed fiftieth session in April 1996 (see General Assembly resolution 49/136) will be of direct relevance to the creation of a favourable environment for social development.

69. Since the scope of the Declaration and Programme of Action is extremely broad, notably in relation to the creation of a supportive environment in the economic and political spheres, most entities of the United Nations Secretariat will have to play a role in the implementation of the outcome of the Summit. This applies to the Centre for Human Rights and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and the Department of Political Affairs.

IV. ROLE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

A. The recommendations made by the Social Summit

70. The first role and function that the General Assembly, the highest intergovernmental body in the United Nations system, is expected to play is to

stimulate, orchestrate and lead an effective implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, by the international community as a whole, including Governments, organizations and agencies of the system, the private sector and the actors of the civil society. This means that the General Assembly ought to keep social development and the objectives and commitments of the Summit high on the agenda of the international community, as decided by Heads of State and Government in Copenhagen (Programme of Action, chap. V, para. 95 (a)).

71. Secondly, the General Assembly is responsible for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit, including the consideration of further actions and initiatives that might be required:

(a) The Assembly is invited by the World Summit to hold a special session in the year 2000 for an overall review and appraisal of its outcome (ibid., para. 95 (b));

(b) The Assembly is also invited to include the follow-up to the Summit in its agenda every year, starting in 1995, as an item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development" (ibid., para. 95 (a));

(c) In 1996, the Assembly is invited to review the effectiveness of the steps taken to implement the outcome of the Summit with regard to poverty eradication, as part of the activities relating to the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty. In that regard, the Assembly is asked, at its fiftieth session, in 1995, to declare the first United Nations decade for the eradication of poverty (ibid., paras. 95 (a) and (c));

(d) To fulfil this function of review and appraisal, the General Assembly will benefit from the review and assessment on the progress made by the international community to implement the outcome of the Summit, to be undertaken by the Economic and Social Council on the basis of reports of national Governments, the regional commissions, relevant functional commissions and specialized agencies. In Commitment 10, the Council is requested to undertake that review and assessment and to report to the Assembly for its appropriate consideration and action. The frequency of the review by the Council is not stipulated in the Copenhagen text.

72. Related to this second function of review and appraisal are the activities of the General Assembly on the follow-up of other major conferences, on the elaboration of an agenda for development and on an integrated consideration of the themes common to major international conferences. One of the seven crucial and essential requirements for an effective implementation of the outcome of the Summit is the integration of goals, programmes and review mechanisms that have developed separately in response to specific problems (ibid., para. 82). In that regard, the conclusions elaborated by the Economic and Social Council in July 1995 include the recommendation, also made in the Programme of Action, that the Assembly address such integrated follow-up within the framework of the discussions on an agenda for development (ibid., para. 95 (e)). The objective given by the Council is to promote better coherence and harmonized and integrated policy guidance. The Council also suggested that the Assembly might consider improving the coherence of its Main Committees to ensure that the

system is equipped to follow up effectively the integrated approach related to the outcomes of United Nations conferences (see A/50/3, para. 22, agreed conclusions, sect. I.A).

73. Also related to the review and appraisal of the outcome of the Summit by the General Assembly are the items that are regularly before its Second and Third Committees. The Third Committee has a standing item on social development that includes the situation of specific groups, as well as every other year a discussion on the social situation in the world on the basis of the Report on the World Social Situation and the interim report on the same subject; through its items on human rights, advancement of women, crime prevention, drug control, refugees, the Third Committee touches upon subjects that are relevant to the implementation of Commitments 1, 4, 5 and 10. The Second Committee considers the question of poverty eradication as well as a large number of economic and social issues, for instance population, which are related to Commitments 1 to 3, 5 and 7 to 10. The Assembly may wish to review these practices, as part of the rationalization of its agenda, with a view to ensuring an integrated and focused consideration of the issues involved.

74. The General Assembly is expected to promote an international dialogue on critical social issues and on policies for addressing them through international cooperation. It is stated in the Programme of Action that the Assembly, as well as the Economic and Social Council, could convene meetings of high-level representatives for the purpose (Programme of Action, chap. V, para. 95 (d)). The Assembly, and the Council, would have to decide, as appropriate, on the convening of such meetings and on the topics to be discussed. It can be assumed, however, that the core issues of the Summit, the 10 Commitments and the related recommendations in the Programme of Action, would delineate the scope of such an international dialogue.

75. The fourth function of the General Assembly as envisaged by the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action is to consider measures to ensure the coherence of the activities of the entities of the United Nations system involved in the promotion of international cooperation for social development. The Assembly is invited by the Summit to consider four types of action:

(a) Promotion and strengthening of the coordination of the United Nations system, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, at all levels, for economic and social development programmes. This could be achieved, inter alia, through reports to and meetings of these entities with the Economic and Social Council. The Assembly was therefore invited by the Summit to request the Council to take action in this regard (ibid., para. 98 (a));

(b) Invitation to the World Trade Organization to consider how it might contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Action, including in cooperation with the United Nations system (ibid., para. 98 (b));

(c) A request to ILO to contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Action, in the field of employment and social development, notably because of its mandate, tripartite structure and expertise (ibid., para. 98 (c));

(d) A request to the Secretary-General to ensure effective coordination of the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action (ibid., para. 98 (d)).

76. Given the scope of the recommendations in the World Summit and the involvement of a wide range of actors, the review by the General Assembly in the year 2000 would be assisted by complementary consideration in an independent expert forum of the issues arising in the implementation of the outcome of the Summit.

77. The implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action in developing countries, in particular in Africa, and the least developed countries, will need additional financial resources and more effective development cooperation and assistance (ibid., para. 88). Among the 15 requirements to achieve this objective is agreeing on a mutual commitment between interested developed and developing country partners to allocate, on average, 20 per cent of official development assistance and 20 per cent of the national budget, respectively, to basic social programmes (ibid., para. 88 (c)). Interested developed and developing countries may like to consider how to move this agreement forward, especially in the area of methodological and conceptual standardization.

B. Decisions that the General Assembly might wish to take

78. Apart from making recommendations and taking decisions on substantive and other aspects of the report of the World Summit for Social Development, the General Assembly may wish to take the following decisions:

(a) To hold a special session in the year 2000 for an overall review and appraisal of the outcome of the Summit;

(b) To include in its agenda, between 1996 and 2000, an item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development", and to consider the implications for the treatment of related items on its agenda;

(c) In addition to the above, consideration could be given to convening, in 1997, a meeting of high-level representatives to consider issues of social development, with particular emphasis on the 10 Commitments adopted in Copenhagen in March 1995.

79. In relation to the three proposals referred to above, the General Assembly may wish:

(a) To invite the Economic and Social Council to consider arrangements to maximize its contribution to the review of the implementation of the outcome of the Summit and the preparations for the overall review and appraisal in the year 2000, including an assessment of the operational and other activities of technical assistance provided by the United Nations and its system. The contribution of the Economic and Social Council would be centred on specific aspects of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action and would be based, as envisaged in Commitment 10, on reports from a variety of sources. The

feasibility of convening a meeting of high-level representatives on the subject of international cooperation for social issues and policies, in 1999, from the viewpoint of the overall coordination of the relevant activities of the United Nations system, should also be considered. The Commission for Social Development would play a central role, in particular from the perspective of social integration; the Secretariat would report to the Council on the activities and findings of other relevant functional commissions; in deciding, the year before, on the contents of its review the Council would take into account the related choice of theme(s) for the integrated consideration of the follow-up of major conferences. The Council would report to the Assembly on the results of its reviews;

(b) To invite the regional commissions, which have been requested in the Programme of Action to convene on a biennial basis, a meeting at high political level to review progress made towards implementing the outcome of the Summit (ibid., para. 95 (h)), to hold such a meeting between 1996 and 1998, in order that the results could be used by the Economic and Social Council in 1999 and the Assembly itself in the year 2000. The invitation from the Government of Austria for a European meeting in 1997 would be seen in this context;

(c) To invite the Secretary-General, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission for Social Development, as well as other relevant intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system, to ensure an effective representation and participation of all actors of the development process, including the private sector, the media and representatives of civil society;

(d) With regard to the participation of the private sector and civil society in the implementation of the outcome of the Summit, to consider the convening of special forums in 1997, prior to the meeting of high-level representatives mentioned above.

80. In addition, the General Assembly may wish:

(a) To encourage Governments, in addition to the fulfilment of the commitments taken in Copenhagen, to prepare periodic national reports, outlining successes, problems and obstacles, as envisaged in the Programme of Action (chap. V, para. 83 (j)), in particular with regard to defining time-bound goals and targets for reducing overall poverty and eradicating absolute poverty, expanding employment and reducing unemployment and enhancing social integration, within each national context, and to make those reports available to the United Nations. The Commission for Social Development would be the main forum for the exchange of experience on the implementation at the national level of the outcome of the Summit and the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly would be apprised of the results of the exchange;

(b) To encourage Governments as well as public and private institutions to take initiatives to promote activities relevant to the high priority attached by the Summit to social development and to the implementation of the objectives and Commitments adopted in Copenhagen;

(c) To request the Secretary-General to prepare an integrated and comprehensive report on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit

for Social Development for consideration by the General Assembly, in the year 2000, and in 1997, in the context of its meeting of high-level representatives; and to request the Secretary-General also to prepare such an integrated and comprehensive report for the Economic and Social Council in 1999, from the viewpoint of the activities of the United Nations system to promote international cooperation for the implementation of the outcome of the Summit.

Notes

1/ Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (A/CONF.166/9).

2/ Ibid., chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II, respectively.

3/ E/1995/86.

4/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 4 (E/1993/24).

5/ Ibid., 1995, Supplement No. 4 (E/1995/24), chap. I, sect. E.

6/ Ibid., sect. B.

7/ DP/1994/39.

8/ E/1995/89.

9/ DP/1995/39.

10/ E/1995/55.

11/ ITM/1/1995.

12/ GB.264/5.

13/ Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (A/CONF.177/20), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

14/ ACC/1995/14, chap. II, sect. F.

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ZONE OF PEACE AND COOPERATION OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its forty-ninth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 49/26 of 2 December 1994 on a zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic in which, inter alia, it took note of the report of the Secretary-General. 1/ It welcomed with satisfaction the holding of the third meeting of the States members of the zone, held at Brasilia on 21 and 22 September 1994, and took note of the Final Declaration, the Declaration on the Denuclearization of the South Atlantic, the Declaration on the Marine Environment, the Declaration on Business Cooperation in the South Atlantic and the decision on the establishment of the Permanent Committee of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic, adopted at the meeting. 2/

2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly affirmed the importance of the South Atlantic to global maritime and commercial transactions and its determination to preserve the region for all activities protected by customary international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. 3/

3. The General Assembly called upon all States to cooperate in the promotion of the objectives established in the declaration of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic and to refrain from any action inconsistent with those objectives and with the Charter and relevant resolutions of the United Nations, particularly action which might create or aggravate situations of tension and potential conflict in the region. It also requested the relevant organizations, organs and bodies of the United Nations system to render appropriate assistance which States of the zone might seek in their joint efforts to implement the objectives of the zone. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to keep the implementation of resolution 41/11 of 27 October 1986 and subsequent resolutions on the matter under review and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session, taking into account, inter alia, the views expressed by Member States.

4. Pursuant to the above resolution, the Secretary-General addressed a note verbale on 4 May 1995 to the Governments of the States Members of the United Nations, requesting their views on the implementation of the declaration on the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic. On the same day, letters were also dispatched to the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations requesting them to convey their contributions for the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General by 1 August 1995.

5. As of 11 October 1995, five Governments had replied to the Secretary-General. Those replies are reproduced in section II of the present report. Any further replies and notifications that may be received at a later date will be published as addenda to the present report.

6. By the same date, communications had been received from five of the organizations and United Nations bodies addressed, and are set out in section III of the present report.

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

A. Argentina

[Original: Spanish]

[1 August 1995]

1. The Argentine Republic once again affirms its full support for the principles and purposes of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic declared in General Assembly resolution 41/11 of 27 October 1986.

2. In this connection, it wishes to underline the special importance which the promotion of democracy and political pluralism and the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms have for the strengthening of the zone, without which a truly effective zone of peace would be very difficult to envisage.

3. The commitment of the Argentine Republic to the consolidation of a lasting peace in the region has been tangibly demonstrated by its participation in the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM), even at the cost of loss of life.

4. As regards the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and international cooperation, the Argentine Republic believes it is important to strengthen and promote the development of international law relating to the physical protection of nuclear materials.

5. As the Foreign Minister of Argentina stated at the Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, held in April-May 1995:

> The transport of materials such as plutonium or highly enriched uranium raised major questions regarding contamination, which require the closest possible attention of the international community.
>
> The recent transit of radioactive waste through the waters of the South Atlantic has placed Argentina in a difficult situation because of the clear ecological risks it may face, given the particular characteristics inherent in navigation in the southern seas. We believe that the international community should go on record in favour of the efforts being made to strengthen existing instruments in the area of physical protection of nuclear materials and management of radioactive waste, in order to make those instruments truly useful in the event of an ecological emergency.

6. The Argentine Government has repeatedly expressed its concern about the protection of the environment of the south-west Atlantic, in particular about the dangers caused by the passage of ships transporting highly radioactive substances.

7. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea confers on coastal States the authority to exercise jurisdiction in their exclusive economic zone, inter alia, for the protection and preservation of the marine environment, and

they thus have the power to enact and enforce norms aimed at avoiding contamination of their waters. Argentina has exercised and will continue to exercise that authority in accordance with international law.

8. Argentina acts responsibly in all matters relating to the protection and preservation of resources. However, without international cooperation, Argentina's efforts to preserve and protect the environment in the south-west Atlantic could prove to be insufficient.

9. While the Argentine Republic respects freedom of navigation as governed by international instruments, it believes that such freedom should be regulated in the case of ships transporting highly radioactive substances. The Government is determined to call upon the relevant international organizations to enforce and strengthen international rules and standards for preventing, reducing and controlling contamination, and to develop rules regulating the passage of ships transporting highly radioactive substances, to ensure, in particular, that the packing of such substances meets the requirements of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) concerning safety in packing.

10. Finally, the Argentine Republic wishes once again to state that the colonial situation of the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands persists in the South Atlantic, affecting its territorial integrity. The increasing normalization of relations between Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the ongoing cooperation efforts and the expressly manifest will to regain sovereignty by peaceful means and in accordance with the principles of international law, of which the Secretary-General and the United Nations General Assembly have been informed, in addition to the constitutional commitment to respect the way of life of the inhabitants of the Malvinas Islands, have not achieved a solution to the sovereignty dispute, which is greatly desired in the South Atlantic region.

B. Brazil

[Original: English]

[14 August 1995]

1. The Government of Brazil reiterates its commitment to the purposes and objectives of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic (ZPCSA), as expressed in resolution 41/11, in subsequent resolutions of the General Assembly and in the decisions and declarations adopted by its Member States.

2. Brazil hosted the third meeting of the States members of the ZPCSA, held at Brasilia on 21 and 22 September 1994. The Final Declaration of that meeting, Declarations on the Denuclearization of the South Atlantic, on the Marine Environment and on Business Cooperation, and a decision on the inter-sessional follow-up mechanism have been circulated in a document submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session. 4/

3. Recent developments in the context of the South Atlantic, such as the integration of a democratic South Africa in the ZPCSA and progress in subregional integration agreements, offer new opportunities for enhancing the links among countries sharing the African and South American coasts of the South Atlantic. Further joint efforts are to be expected in order to address challenges in areas such as the easing of tension, preservation of the environment, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and cooperation for development, and in multilateral issues.

4. The Government of Brazil looks forward to participating in the next meetings of the member States of the zone and welcomes the offers made by the Governments of South Africa, Argentina and Benin to host future meetings.

C. Malawi

[Original: English]

[9 August 1995]

The Government of Malawi is committed to the promotion of international peace and security, and questions of peace and security are central to its domestic and foreign policies. The Government therefore endorses the objectives of the resolution. In addition, it supports measures which are aimed at the conservation and sustainable utilization of natural resources.

D. South Africa

[Original: English]

[11 October 1995]

1. South Africa welcomes the objectives of General Assembly resolution 49/26 of 2 December 1994. Bringing the countries of the South Atlantic rim together in closer understanding and cooperation and by bridging a military-free and nuclear-free ocean to increase political, economic and cultural links between eastern South America and West African countries, can be warmly subscribed to.

2. In this regard the South African Government wishes to underline recent developments in relations between South Africa and the States members of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic, which developments have contributed not only to a lessening of tension in the South Atlantic but also to prospects for increasingly close economic and other contacts.

3. It is clear that the emergence of a democratic non-racial Government of National Unity in South Africa, preceded by the independence of Namibia and the reintegration of Walvis Bay into that territory, has not only afforded South Africa the advantage of becoming the twenty-fourth member State of the zone, but also provided a more propitious environment for furthering the objectives of the zone.

4. The Government of South Africa remains committed to the principles and objectives of the Declaration of the third meeting of the States members of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic, held in Brazil on 21 and 22 September 1994, and reaffirms its belief in the zone as a veritable instrument for promoting international peace and security as well as development cooperation.

5. As a mark of its commitment, South Africa will be hosting the fourth ministerial meeting of the zone in Cape Town, South Africa, early in 1996.

6. South Africa recognizes the intraregional opportunities for the expansion of trade, investment, cultural, tourism, sporting and other links and wishes to cooperate in these fields in a positive and constructive manner.

7. The zone provides a very important opportunity and framework for promoting the common interests and aspirations of those African and South American States which share the South Atlantic. Such an instrument could also provide impetus and substance to South-South dialogue and cooperation in general.

8. Global developments that have brought an end to the cold war and realigned balances of power, particularly also in the South Atlantic, afford member States a safer environment in which to pursue more relevant and substantive economic, social, environmental and other regional issues, and as a grouping vis-à-vis the rest of the world.

9. These new opportunities should be sought and vigorously pursued. As it will be chairing the next meeting, South Africa will hope to make a meaningful input in this regard.

10. It remains necessary, at the same time, not to become complacent about the many problems that do beset the region and individual Member States. Poverty and deprivation, human rights and asymmetrical development that would benefit all, and not just some, must continue to receive earnest attention. The region is capable of looking to itself for solutions and the necessary political will must be found to establish that beyond dispute.

E. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

[Original: English]

[9 August 1995]

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomes the objectives of General Assembly resolution 49/26 of 2 December 1994, which are to promote peace and cooperation in the South Atlantic. In this regard, the British Government wishes to draw the Secretary-General's attention to developments in Anglo-Argentine relations which have contributed to the lessening of tension in the south-west Atlantic. In particular, cooperation continues in the forum of the South Atlantic Fisheries Commission (contributing to the conservation of stocks), and in the field of military confidence-building measures under the Interim Reciprocal Information and Consultation System.

Discussions continue to try to find areas for cooperation over oil exploration around the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), and to enable the removal of land mines left on the Islands following the conflict of 1982.

III. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

A. Department of Public Information

1. The adoption of General Assembly resolution 49/26 was highlighted by the Department's daily news programmes for broadcasting organizations, including the Radio Bulletin Board, and received emphasis in its press release service on 2 December 1994. United Nations information centres and services, particularly those located in the region, publicized the action taken by the General Assembly through their newsletters.

2. From the beginning of December 1994 to the end of June 1995, questions relating to the purposes and objectives of the zone, with particular emphasis on the interrelationship of peace, security and sustainable development, have been the subject of 612 radio magazine and documentary programmes produced altogether in 11 languages and distributed to about 800 broadcasting organizations. During the same period, 506 press releases in English and French on issues pertaining to the resolution, including press coverage of the World Summit for Social Development and of meetings of intergovernmental bodies at Headquarters, have been produced and distributed. A great number of those press releases, as well as relevant background notes, have been transmitted by electronic mail and by pouch to United Nations offices around the world, and through publicly accessible databases and networks such as the Internet.

3. Through newsletters, group briefings, adaptation of information materials produced at Headquarters and other forms of dissemination of information, all United Nations information centres have drawn attention to the efforts of the international community with regard to the establishment of a zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic and its objectives. These activities related to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action 5/ adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993 to promote human rights, the progress towards the full entry into force of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), 6/ the implementation of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa, 7/ the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and its importance to the South Atlantic, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21, 8/ and the activities of the Organization on achieving a lasting peace and on rendering humanitarian assistance to Angola and Liberia. Within the region addressed by the resolution, special efforts with regard to the objectives of the resolution have been undertaken by the information service in Santiago and the information centres in Accra, Buenos Aires, Dakar, Lagos, Mexico City, Rio de Janeiro, Washington and Windhoek.

4. Nine productions of the United Nations Television series "UN in Action" for broadcasting by over 100 television stations, and six productions of its programme "World Chronicle" for broadcasting by television stations in North

America, have been directed to issues with relevance to the resolution. Issues before the World Summit for Social Development were the theme of a 30-minute programme which was aired by major television organizations.

B. Economic Commission for Europe

1. Although the major part of the zone falls outside the geographical scope of the region of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Commission is offering its cooperation, if needed, in the field of the environment, in which it has developed a number of environmental conventions that could serve as a model for other regional groupings.

2. ECE would like to draw particular attention to the Secretary-General's note to the Economic and Social Council 9/ on a Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar and corresponding Council resolution 1993/60 of 30 July 1993. A similar note has been prepared for the forthcoming session of the Council, outlining the work done on the bridge or tunnel options during the period 1993-1994. ECE has been following this issue since 1982.

C. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

1. The activities of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) focused on implementing the recommendations of the meetings of experts on the law of the sea of the States members of the zone, in the framework of the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

2. Since there have been no further meetings of its kind since 1991, the ECLAC contribution to the goals of General Assembly resolutions on the subject has been essentially through the transmission of pertinent documentation of its activities in relevant areas such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Convention on Biological Diversity 10/ and the Basel Convention on the Control of the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, 1989. 11/ ECLAC has been sending these documents to Headquarters for submission to the Coordinator of the zone.

3. ECLAC believes that stronger cooperation on environmental affairs in the zone is essential and would like to be informed about technical forums to be convened in the future, as well as about other possible existing channels for information exchange with the newly established Permanent Committee on the Zone of Peace and Cooperation of the South Atlantic. Two specific areas deserve inclusion in cooperation efforts between experts of States members of the zone. The first is the need for cooperation between Africa and Latin America in the control of the illegal traffic of hazardous products and wastes and, in this connection, in the fostering of closer links between the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa, 12/ and the Latin American and Caribbean arrangements. The establishment of regional centres for training and transfer of technology in the field could be another interesting area of cooperation. The second area relates to the need for the preparation of

guidelines on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity. ECLAC convened a meeting in October 1994 to analyse some aspects referring to coastal management in marine and coastal areas of high biodiversity in the Atlantic.

D. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

1. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) are working in the South Atlantic through the regional subsidiary body of IOC for the central eastern Atlantic (IOCEA), through Integrated Management of Coastal Systems (COMAR) in Africa and South America, through a subregional programme for the upper south-west Atlantic of Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay, and through the initiation of a programme for the Benguela Current system, including Namibia and South Africa, and possibly other partners in Africa.

2. In this context, South-South cooperation is encouraged. Several activities are carried out jointly with the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea. IOC has proposed a training centre in West Africa as part of the United Nations/United Nations Development Programme Train-Sea-Coast Programme.

E. World Meteorological Organization

1. Three countries bounding the South Atlantic (Argentina, Brazil and South Africa) accepted international responsibility, under the new WMO marine Broadcast Systems for the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System of IMO, for the broadcast of meteorological forecasts and warning, via satellite, in support of maritime safety, to specified zones in the South Atlantic. These broadcast services are now operational. The same three countries also accepted provisional responsibility for providing meteorological support services, under the WMO Marine Pollution Emergency Response Support System (MPRESS), for the same zones, for operations in response to marine pollution emergencies on the high seas. Formal trials of the MPRESS are now under way.

2. Following a joint initiative of the WMO/IOC Data Buoy Cooperation Panel and WMO/IOC/United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) Global Climate Observing System (GCOS), a cooperative international South Atlantic Buoy Programme (ISABP) was formally established in October 1994. The programme groups 12 institutions from six countries with interests in the South Atlantic (Argentina, Brazil, Germany, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America), with the objective of maintaining operationally an agreed network of drifting buoys in the South Atlantic, measuring various meteorological and surface oceanographic variables, in support of major programmes of WMO such as the World Weather Watch (WWW) and those implemented jointly with IOC, such as GCOS, the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) and the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP). All data from these buoys are distributed globally through the Global Telecommunication System

(GTS) of WMO. Technical coordination for ISABP is provided by the South African Weather Bureau.

3. Under the IOC/WMO Integrated Global Ocean Services System (IGOSS), the Argentine navy maintains a specialized oceanographic centre for the collection, processing, archival and delivery, as required, of sub-surface oceanographic data (primarily temperature and salinity) for the South Atlantic.

Notes

1/ A/49/524.

2/ A/49/467, annexes I-V.

3/ Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

4/ A/49/467.

5/ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

6/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 634, No. 9068.

7/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twentieth Session, Annexes, agenda item 105, document A/5975.

8/ See Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), resolution 1, annex I.

9/ E/1993/80.

10/ See United Nations Environment Programme, Convention on Biological Diversity (Environmental Law and Institutions Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

11/ International Legal Material, vol. 28, p. 687.

12/ Ibid., vol. 30, 1991 and vol. 31, 1992.